

SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Loch Dreizler, General Manager
DATE: June 21, 2023
SUBJECT: The Chumash Proposed Administration Buildings – wastewater service has been preliminarily designed to go to the Chumash Wastewater Treatment Plant

Proposed Motion / Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board discuss and review the comparisons (attached) to help determine if the wastewater treatment services go to the Chumash Wastewater Treatment Plant or to Solvang's wastewater treatment plant via SYCSD's collection system.

Policy Implications

- Santa Ynez CSD Sewer Service Code sections 104 and 301 (available at www.sycsd.com)
- Interagency Agreement between the District and the City of Solvang dated September 14, 1998 (Also, available at www.sycsd.com)

Fiscal Implications

Depending on the decision – there may be additional revenue for the District from capacity charges and monthly fees if wastewater is treated in Solvang. However, the District would retain additional residential capacity if the wastewater is treated at the Chumash wastewater treatment plant.

Alternatives Considered

Alternatively, from the proposed design, send wastewater to Solvang via the District's collection system for wastewater treatment.

Discussion

The Board and the wastewater committee discussed this item and requested that staff develop a comparison between the two options. It is important to note that the question is not if wastewater treatment services will be provided but who will provide them – through the Chumash treatment plant or Solvang's treatment plant via the Santa Ynez CSD's collection system.

The committee discussed the possibility of the proposed project connecting as shown on the proposed utility plan - through to the Chumash treatment plant but also considered the alternative, which would be for the District to provide collection and wastewater services. Regardless, sewer collection and treatment will be available for this proposed project in one of two possibilities (1) as proposed or (2) using our collection system.

The scenario is unique because the Chumash Cultural Center sends wastewater to the Chumash wastewater treatment plant; however, the Cultural Center is within the Trust. The Proposed Administration Building property is not within the Trust but part of the unincorporated portion of the County of Santa Barbara. However, both properties are within the District's sphere of influence.

Attachment(s): Chumash WWTP Comparison with Solvang WWTP

Chumash WWTP Comparison with Solvang WWTP

Chumash Collections & Wastewater Treatment

- **Neutral:** Chumash Would need to build additional infrastructure at its expense but not present a problem.
- **Positive:** Chumash to provide all Operations and Maintenance costs.
- **Positive:** Would likely allow for additional SYCSD capacity – equal to about 5 or 6 additional homes and 5 or 6 additional capacity fees and monthly service fees.
- **Positive:** Would likely allow for additional monthly sewer fees equal to about 5 or 6 additional homes.
- **Positive:** Would provide recycled water for irrigation within local aquifers.
- **Note:** Any agreement must include specific legal explanations of why this represents a unique exemption and why SYCSD allows this exemption for a property within our sphere of influence to avoid setting precedence.

SYCSD Collections & Solvang Wastewater Treatment

- **Positive:** Infrastructure already in place
- **Neutral:** Minimal additional Operating and Maintenance costs.
- **Positive:** One-time Capacity Fee estimates approximately \$21,000 (2 office buildings * \$10,500). To be determined based on the county-approved site plan and floor plans.
- **Positive:** The projected annual sewer service fee revenue estimate is approximately \$4,000 (\$333 monthly). TBD is based on county-approved floor plans.
- **Neutral:** Would minimally increase flows to the Solvang Treatment Plant by about 1,000 gallons per day (TBD with approved plans). This will increase our annual costs by about \$1,500.
- **Positive:** Solvang WWTP is planning to recycle water with future upgrades.